GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:332
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2005
BAN ON SALE OF AYURVEDIC DRUGS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES
Badiga Shri Ramakrishna;Gadakh Shri Tukaram Gangadhar

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that some Ayurvedic Drugs have been banned in some foreign countries as reported in the `Hindustan Times` dated 22 July, 2005;

(b) if so, the details of the facts reported therein and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the names of the companies and their products which have been banned;

(d) the adverse impact thereof on Indian Ayurvedic Medicines market abroad;

(e) whether the Government has conducted any enquiry in this regard;

(f) if so, the findings thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to clarify the doubts in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)to(g): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 332 FOR 17TH AUGUST, 2005

(a)to(c): Yes, Sir. The Canadian Government has recently imposed a ban on the following Indian Ayurvedic and Unani Medicinal products on the ground that they contain high levels of metals such as lead, mercury and/or arsenic:

S.No.	Products Banned	Name of the Company
1.	Karela Tablets	Shriji Herbal Products, India
2.	Karela Capsules	Himalaya Drug Co. India
3.	Maha Sudarshan Churna Powder	Zandu Pharmaceuticals, Mumbai, India
4.	Maha Sudarshan Churna Powder	D&K Pharmacy, Bhavnagar, India
5.	Maha Sudarshan Churna Powder	Chhatrisha Lalpur, India
6.	Maha Sudarshan Churna Powder	Dabur India Ltd. New Delhi, India
7	SAFI Liquid	Hamdard-WAKF-India
8.	Yograj Guggul tablets	Zandu Pharmaceuticals, Mumbai, India
9.	Sudarshan tablets	Zandu Pharmaceuticals, Mumbai, India
10.	Shilajit capsules	Dabur India Ltd., New Delhi, India

(d)to(g): The Canadian Government has been officially requested to provide detailed information regarding the methodology of testing and corresponding analysis carried out by them on the basis of which the ban has been imposed. The manufacturers of Ayurvdic medicines mentioned in the ban have been directed to get safety/toxicity studies carried out for their products by National Accreditation Board of Laboratories (NABL)/Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) accredited laboratories and sent their reports in respect of acute, sub-acute and chronic safety/toxicity drugs studies. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has also undertaken a study on the toxicity of metal based Bhasmas. The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Department of AYUSH, is committed to standardization and quality control of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unnai (ASU) drugs in pursuance of which a number of initiatives have been taken. These include extension of assistance for state drug testing laboratories and pharmacies, laying down of pharmaceuticals standards, notification of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) for compliance by the drug manufacturers, etc. A Golden Triangle Project in partnership with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has also been initiated for scientific validation of existing Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani (ASU) drugs and development of new ASU drugs.

The Health Canada warning may have an adverse impact on the export of Ayurvedic medicines to that country. However, it seems unlikely that there would be a major adverse impact globally.